



Fact sheet – Statistical activity and published results

Statistics on Pupils and Students (SDL): survey on persons in compulsory education, at upper secondary level and in professional education

Description

The Statistics on Pupils and Students (SDL) are based on 26 sets of cantonal statistics. The survey includes all persons enrolled in an education or training programme for at least half a year, either full-time or part-time, with a view to achieving a specific educational outcome. The survey covers primary levels 1–2 (kindergarten/first learning cycle) through to tertiary level (excluding universities) and includes both public and private educational institutions. The data from the 26 cantons is harmonised at national level. The statistics are compatible with the UNESCO International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).

Available since:
1980

Methodology

Type of survey

Exhaustive survey based on individual-level data (1,300,000 people/year). The cantons are responsible for gathering data on pupils and students. The survey encompasses all levels of education with the exception of universities. Participation is compulsory.

Variables

Data is collected at the level of the individual (pupil/student), the class and the educational institution.

School year
Educational institution identifier (BER number)
Class identifier
Personal identifier (OASI number)
Sex
Year of birth
Nationality
First language
Commune of residence
Type of programme
Programme year
Teaching method
Status of the teaching programme and special education measures
Federal Vocational Baccalaureate 1 courses (during Federal VET diploma course)

Reference period

School year

Periodicity

Annual
Data from a school year is published from February of the following year (e.g. February 2025 for the 2023/24 school year).

	<p>Degree of regionalisation Communes (aggregated at cantonal level for data protection reasons)</p> <p>Linkages CdC, BER</p> <p>Quality of statistical data The quality of the data is high overall. The personal identifier enables longitudinal analyses.</p>
Revision policy	<p>Periodic revisions The annual publication of new findings (at the end of February) includes retroactive corrections received throughout the previous year and any nomenclature updates (e.g. including changes to the structure of communes). The time series has been updated for all years up to 1999.</p> <p>Methodological revisions Revisions are undertaken as required (e.g. revision of nomenclatures or statistical classifications).</p> <p>Last methodological revision: 2010/11 school year: introduction of the OASI number as a personal identifier. Data is available at individual level.</p>
Legal basis	Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)
Organisation	<p>Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in collaboration with the competent cantonal authorities and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)</p> <p>Address for enquiries schulstat@bfs.admin.ch</p>